

Message

From: Ross, Mary [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=98359CD1F66F46EC91D327E99A3C6909-ROSS, MARY]
Sent: 10/13/2015 12:42:33 PM
To: ORD-NCEA [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=9fd27be854b0475e8c7da44e626886aa-ORD-NCEA]
Subject: FW: ORD/OSA Weekly October 12

Good morning, I'm forwarding the ORD highlights, they include NCEA activities.

From: Blackburn, Elizabeth
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2015 6:25 PM
To: ORD-Mgmt-Council; ORD-IOAA-Front Office Support; ORD-Exec-Council-Directors
Subject: Fwd: ORD/OSA Weekly October 12

Hello all,
I hope everyone was able to enjoy the lovely weekend. Please see Tom's note to the Administrator below.
Liz

Liz Blackburn
Chief of Staff
USEPA Office of Research and Development
202-564-2192

Cell Personal Matters / Ex. 6

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Burke, Thomas" <Burke.Thomas@epa.gov>
Date: October 12, 2015 at 5:31:50 PM EDT
To: "Adm13McCarthy, Gina" <Adm13McCarthy.Gina@epa.gov>, "Meiburg, Stan" <Meiburg.Stan@epa.gov>, "Fritz, Matthew" <Fritz.Matthew@epa.gov>, "Vaught, Laura" <Vaught.Laura@epa.gov>, "Purchia, Liz" <Purchia.Liz@epa.gov>, "Garbow, Avi" <Garbow.Avi@epa.gov>, "Pieh, Luseni" <Pieh.Luseni@epa.gov>, "Rupp, Mark" <Rupp.Mark@epa.gov>, "Garvin, Shawn" <garvin.shawn@epa.gov>, "Beauvais, Joel" <Beauvais.Joel@epa.gov>
Cc: "Kadeli, Lek" <Kadeli.Lek@epa.gov>, "Kavlock, Robert" <Kavlock.Robert@epa.gov>, "Blackburn, Elizabeth" <Blackburn.Elizabeth@epa.gov>, "Deener, Kathleen" <Deener.Kathleen@epa.gov>, "Smith, Kelley" <Smith.Kelley@epa.gov>, "Hubbard, Carolyn" <Hubbard.Carolyn@epa.gov>, "Naples, Eileen" <Naples.Eileen@epa.gov>
Subject: ORD/OSA Weekly October 12

Administrator,

Sorry to submit this report a little late, I have been up in Cape May for the Fall bird and Monarch butterfly migrations . An amazing reminder of the importance of the Agency's work.

This week we will continue to provide scientific and technical support to assist OW, Region 5, and the State of Michigan on the Flint drinking water situation. Our National Risk Management Research Lab in Cincinnati has played a technical leadership role. I especially appreciate the leadership of Cynthia Sonich-Mullin and the scientific expertise of ORD's Darren Lytle and Michael Schock. Darren represented EPA at the public meeting in Flint on October 7.

On Tuesday, I will speak to a new National Academies Committee on the public health implications of low dose exposures to environmental pollutants. This committee has been charged with reviewing the scientific evidence related to the toxicity of low dose exposures, those in the range of population exposures yet well below the doses of typical animal toxicology testing. My talk will frame the issue in terms of its importance to EPA's work and to public health. David Dix will join me to provide a perspective from OCSPP.

Strategic Research Action Plans for 2016-2019 Now Available

I am pleased to announce that ORD's revised Strategic Research Action Plans, which present the research portfolio for each of ORD's National Research Programs, are now available. The plans lay out how ORD's research programs meet Agency priorities and focus on environmental and related human health challenges facing the nation. We appreciate the input and support of our program and regional partners as well as our external stakeholders during the strategic planning process.

Tribal Science Webinar Series

On October 13, ORD will kick off the Tribal Science Webinar Series. The series will develop a forum to discuss the complex environmental issues facing many tribal and indigenous communities, by featuring a wide variety of expert guest speakers, from government, academic institutions and other organizations. Speakers include ORD scientists as well as guest speaker, Dr. Clint Carroll, Assistant Professor in the Ethnic Studies Department of University of Colorado, Boulder.

Representation at International Joint Commission – Research Coordination Committee (IJC-RCC) October 14-15, ORD's Tom Speth will represent EPA at the yearly IJC-RCC meeting in Windsor, Ontario where he will carry forward EPA's interests in protecting the health of the Great Lakes and report back to the Agency on relevant issues. Canada and the U.S. created the IJC to cooperatively manage the lakes and river systems along the shared border. The IJC has two main responsibilities: (1) regulating shared water uses, and (2) investigating transboundary issues and recommending solutions.

Waters of the U.S. Connectivity Report Presentation

On October 15, ORD's Laurie Alexander will give a presentation on the science behind EPA's Connectivity of Streams and Wetlands to Downstream Waters report to the White House's National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) Committee on Environment and Natural Resources-Subcommittee on Water Availability and Quality (CENR-SWAQ).

Last Week

Evaluating Methylmercury Contamination in Lakes and Reservoirs

In September, ORD researchers and staff from Regions 9 and 10 visited California's Lake Nacimiento, part of the Klau Buena Vista Mine Superfund Site, to measure mercury methylation and demethylation rates. The team is working to identify the source of methylmercury in the lake, understand the effects of water oxygen levels on mercury methylation, and identify the relative bioavailability of inorganic mercury for methylation in the lake sediment.

ORD Scientists Recognized by Minnesota Agency

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's (MPCA's) staff recognized ORD, OW, and Region 5 staff for their contributions to two MPCA reports on the health of wetlands in Minnesota. Status and trends of wetlands in Minnesota: Depressional Wetland Quality Assessment (2007-2012) and Status and Trends of Wetlands in Minnesota: Vegetation Quality Baseline were released prior to the beginning of Minnesota's 2015 waterfowl hunting season.

ORD Welcomes Franken Senate Staffer

On October 5, a staffer from the office of Minnesota Senator Al Franken visited our Duluth lab and learned about the culture facilities, laboratories, and analytical capabilities as groundwork for a possible visit from Senator Franken.

OSWER visit to EPA-Cincinnati

October 5-6, OSWER DAA Nitin Natarajan and OEM Acting Director Reggie Cheatham visited ORD-Cincinnati. They were pleased and very engaged in discussing our research to support their needs. They specifically highlighted the importance of incorporating economics into life cycle analyses and looking at debris management upfront during disasters.

Presentation on Health Impact Assessments (HIA) Work

On October 7th, ORD's Florence Fulk gave a presentation on ORD's HIA work to a green infrastructure group created by the Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati. Fulk has been working with Region 5 and ORD to develop a plan for a green incentive program for the College Hill neighborhood in Cincinnati.

ORD and Region 1 Participate in Community Engagement Meeting

On October 8th ORD participated in the third community engagement meeting for Lawrence, Massachusetts for a project under the Agency's Making a Visible Difference initiative. Several dozen attendees representing community organizations, the City of Lawrence, and the EPA gathered to further prioritize Lawrence's short- and long-term environmental issues and next steps. The ORD team will conduct research related to climate resiliency planning and community outreach and education.

Five Years of Challenges Event

On October 8th OSTP and GSA held an event to celebrate 5 years of challenges. Over the last five years, federal agencies have launched over 400 challenges and issued over \$150 million in prizes. EPA received two awards and recognition for ORD's work on challenges: Denice Shaw received a Trailblazer Award and has been invited to be one of the members of the Challenges Mentorship Program organized by OSTP. EPA and HHS were also recognized for collaborative efforts to organize the "My Air, My Health" Challenge in 2012.

Society of Environmental Journalists (SEJ) Tour Ada Lab

On October 8, a group from the 25th Annual Society of Environmental Journalists (SEJ) Conference toured the Robert S. Kerr Environmental Research Center (RSKERC). EPA led the journalists on a general tour of the facility, providing highlights of ORD's ground water research.

Publications

ORD Researcher's invited article published in AWWA journal

Eugene Rice's article, "Occurrence and Control of Tularemia in Drinking Water" was published in the October issue of the American Water Works Association (AWWA) journal, the premier journal for the drinking water industry. Dr. Rice was invited to write a peer-reviewed article on the control of Tularemia in drinking water as a key contribution to this edition dedicated to *Francisella tularensis*, the causative agent for tularemia. The review focuses on tularemia acquired from contaminated drinking water and the adequacy of control measures for preventing waterborne transmission. The Journal's editor mentioned in his column that the article was a milestone for the journal and the peer review was accomplished in a record 30 days.